THIS IS WAR!!!
Stop “Griping And Go To Biting”!

(Editor’s Note.—The above headline was inspired by Mr. Howard Macfarlane’s radio talk last Thursday evening. Every real American should read it and remember it from now on for the “duration.”)

By HOWARD P. MACFARLANE
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This is perhaps one of the black weeks in our country’s history. Singapore has fallen. Pearl Harbor and Wake Island are history. Some part of the Philippines remain to us by the grace of God and General MacArthur. The last of the Dutch Indies are open to assault and are being assaulted. A part of the German fleet has run the Straits of Dover and Axis submarines are active on our Atlantic seaboard and in the Caribbean.

Since the measure of the worth of a nation, as of an individual, lies not in the ease of adversity rather than in prosperity, let us take stock.

What has happened as yet really affects the United States but little exaggeration. Our men have been pleased to regard ourselves as so strong, so rich, so powerful, that none would dare to attack us. We failed to take account of the tremendous, and the trait of jealousy, of greed, and of last for power; we failed to recognize the plain truth that our wealth and general attitude of our country is conditioned by power and in the world’s eyes. The world’s attitude towards us has been shown in the past and will not forget Bunker Hill and Kings Mountain, Jackson at New Orleans, the Alamo, Wake Island and now Iwo Jima. We have stood alone in that spirit, and that spirit has not been in vain upon such occasions.

And that brings me to a matter which seems to me to be of the utmost importance, which will receive my attention through reading one of the news commentaries in the daily press. That is the wave of criticism of the British which has recently swept the country and which this commentator attributed to Nazi strategy. Whether that be its source or not, it should be answered.

The British are our friends and allies, just as we are theirs. Of late they have not done so well. Neither have we. If we were unprepared, so were we. If their production has collapsed, it is not the fault of the British, it is the fault of the Axis. If the British are not ours, and probably for such the same reasons. And if they have characteristics which at times are not ours, we in the area of the inverse is true. But in spite of all this, the fact remains—and it is the salient fact—that we have made a partnership with them, as they have made a partnership with us, and that faith, demands our fullest cooperation, and theirs.

In no other way can any partnership succeed. Nation to nation are the people who compose them. No one individual is typical. It is the aggregate which counts. And so it is important to meet a Britisher who thinks that we should have gone to war sooner, you are prone to reply that had they used good sense there would have been no war. You are not, you think the British failed in not adequately supplying and manning Singapore, he has his answer in the Philippines. That water is under the bridge. If there is any more useless occupation than recrimination over responsibility for the milk already spilled, it remains to be discovered.

Our duty lies in action calculated to bring this war to a victorious conclusion; not in debate as to past errors. And above all, we should have faith in our partner, for he is likely worth of it.

You overlook the idiosyncrasies of your friends, some of which are slightly annoying, almost daily. It’s the same with the British, and they with us. And perhaps the whole story lies in the fact that we spring from a common stock, have the same traditions of strength and weakness, and in the last analysis are antagonistic for that very reason.

But do not let yourself be blinded by their manner of superiority, their haughty attitudes, and their mistakes. Fundamentally, they are sound. You have only to remember the battle at Dunkerque; their will to survive has never failed; their resilience is as strong as the French collapse; their fortitude under the bombings of 1940, and their last historic sight at Singapore after they had lost it, to realize that their partners, are entitled to our loyalty, and that means in word and thought as well as deed. You don’t need to love them. You need to recognize that they are a fundamental material, to stand with them and to support them as they stand with us and support us. No partner that has succeeded when one of the partners was constantly nagging the other.

Therefore, if there be any of you who have doubt of the ultimate outcome, put that doubt from you. It is your duty to have in your own heart the will to win and the abiding faith in ultimate victory and to install that will and faith into all with whom you come in contact. If there be any of you who in times past have not agreed in all particulars with those elected to guide the country, yet the time has come when the utmost of your support in the prosecution of this war and encourage a like support in all with whom you come in contact. If there be any of you who as elected leaders, and under our system of government you will have no others.

If he be any of you who have shirked any task heretofore imposed upon you in connection with our war effort, remedy that situation by accomplishing that which is required. Your country is entitled to your time and effort as needed. Your private affairs must be relegated to a secondary place.

The only thing that our destiny as a nation lies in our own hands. If we act as we should, no power on earth can prevent our ultimate victory, no matter how long it may take. The sacrifice for victory is of no moment. It is the cost of defeat which will be devastating, and that we shall never escape. If we do our duty as it lies clearly before us and as God gives us strength.

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